

May 1982

Next Meeting.

We are entering the World of Commercial Broadcasting this month, when the Senior Engineer of Essex Radio Don Scott visits us to give a talk. It should be quite interesting to hear what goes on behind the scenes of our local radio station. So, for this lecture come to the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, at 7.30pm on Tuesday May 4th.

Committee Meeting.

Wednesday May 12th, Sportsmans Arms, Hatfield Peverel, 7.29pm.

Next Months Meeting.

June is traditionally the Constructor's Competition and this year is no exception. So, get those winter projects tuned up and ready! There are at least two entries already. (G3KRZ found "that bit I've been after for a long time" at Alexandra Palace recently). Prizes are increased this year to £7 First, £5 Second and £2 Third.

D.F.News.

The second Chelmsford DF event starts from Tiptree Heath NGR 884148 at 7.30pm on 21st May. Colchester events starting from Fordham Heath NGR 945264 at 7.30pm are on 30th April and 4th June. Two National Qualifying events are arranged in May:-Mid-Thames on the 9th and Rugby on the 23rd.

Report on Last Months Meeting.

Last month Barry Morris and a colleague from the Marconi College gave a very compressed version of a seven week course, run by the college about printed circuit boards. They started at the beginning by describing the different types of board available and their manufacture. They passed around samples of board at the various manufacturing stages, then they described the different types of track, ranging from the simple single sided track to the complex multilayer board with plated through holes. They described the design of tracks and gave a short talk about the various methods of transferring artwork to the copper laminate.

A brief discussion then followed concerning the correct soldering procedures and stressing the importance of cleanliness whilst soldering. A few slides were shown indicating what happens when track and component leads are dirty before soldering. Towards the end of the evening Barry started to show us the many ways of repairing P.C.B's, but time was unfortunately getting very late and at a quarter to eleven we had to call a halt to a fascinating lecture.

Barry and Doug. must be thanked for their excellent lecture and for giving up their spare time. I am sure that another evening could be spent continuing with the repair of boards, so we hope to see them back again later in the year for part two of this seven week course.

Alexandra Palace.

At 8 o'clock on Saturday 17th April a party boarded the minibus for the trip to the exhibition. We arrived just after 9 o'clock, shortly after the exhibition opened. It was held, this year, in the new Alexandra Pavillion - a giant aluminium framed polythene tent. By getting there early we were able to wander round easily and see a lot of stands before it became too crowded. The exhibition was well laid out and very spacious. There were something like eighty exhibitors, ranging from the 'surplus' and 'bits' stands to the big commercial stands selling lots of expensive gear. Facilities at the pavillion were far superior to the old exhibition hall, with two buffets, two bars and plenty of seats around the edge of the room. Some of us took packed lunches and others relied on the excellent catering facilities - the coffee is to be recommended.

At 4 o'clock spent out and being heavily laden with goodies, we made our way back to the minibus for the return journey. Items purchased included books, a multimeter, aerials, a vice and a mobile speaker. We all agreed that it was a very good exhibition and at £3.50 per head bus fare, a worthwhile outing.

ZLØAAF

As many of you no doubt know, after regularly contacting Colin ZL1AUM for ten years, our president, Roy has taken a holiday in New Zealand to visit Colin and his family and also to tour the country.

Before he went, Roy arranged a sked with several club members for 9.00 GMT on Good Friday on 21.150 MHz. Waiting for a signal from the other side of the world were:- G4CUT, G3GNQ, G4BYR and G3EDM with G4KQE and G8WQZ at QTH de G3EDM to ensure good reception! Geoff was net controller and at 9.00 he established contact with ZL1AUM. The signals were very good at S7 and after a couple of minutes Roy alias ZLØAAF came on the air from Colin's station. It was marvelous to speak to Roy in New Zealand and he gave each station a report. G4LDS and G4DAN also called in together with lots of other stations wanting a 'ZLØ', but Roy primarily wanted to work club members and get a message to his father, although he did contact a couple of SM's and the odd European station. Once the group was under way there was a short 'YL net' when Daphne G8WQZ operated Geoff's transmitter and spoke to Ela, who was able to get a call in New Zealand before she could get one in this country, although she had to use Roy's call on the HF bands under his supervision.

At about 9.45 the signals were still holding up, so the group went round once again, with Geoff in control. Jeremy G3NOX came on at about 10.00 GMT and wanted to do some tests to New Zealand. He sent a colour picture to Roy who recorded it then it was played back over the air and Jeremy was delighted with the result. I think perhaps we witnessed the first ever colour picture to be sent direct to New Zealand and back. Just for good measure the procedure was repeated and this time an even better picture was received by Jeremy. The QSO continued until about 10.45 GMT with signals still holding around S5-S6. It was a remarkable contact and enjoyed by everyone. Roy and Ela were delighted at the response of club members and signed off to go to bed ready to get up early the next morning to catch a plane to take them 600 miles south to Christchurch.

If anyone would like to hear the contact, I have the first hour on a standard cassette tape.

Raffle.

Prizes for this month's raffle include some IC's, a RSGB car sticker, a 3 metre measuring tape and some writing paper and envelopes.

We hope to draw the Bumper Raffle this month the prize of which is a Radio Communicatio Handbook Volume 2.

Holiday With a Difference.

I have received a letter from G6GR, a retired professional engineer, who helps his family run the Fairmount House Hotel in Torquay. He says he has set up a station in the hotel (HF & VHF) and the equipment is free to be used by any guests. Enclosed with his letter is a leaflet describing the hotel, so if anyone is interested in a holiday 'on the air' in Torquay I have all the details.

73,

Andrew.

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